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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method for communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device, comprising the steps of:

determining information to be transmitted by the monitoring device to the monitored device, the monitored device being selected from the group consisting of a printer, ~~a facsimile machine, a facsimile server,~~ a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending machine, the information including a request for a status of the monitored device determined using sensors within the monitored device; and

transmitting the information through electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device using an Internet e-mail protocol.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Original): A method according to claim 68, wherein the step of transmitting the information from the monitoring device comprises:

transmitting the information to the monitored device which is a business office device.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of transmitting the information to the monitoring device comprises:

transmitting the information to one of a copier, ~~a facsimile machine,~~ and a printer.

Claim 14 (Original): A method according to claim 68, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the transmitted information by the monitored device; and

transmitting, through the Internet, an Internet electronic mail message from the monitored device to the monitoring device containing status information of the monitored device, in response to the transmitted information from the monitoring device.

Claim 15 (Original): A method according to claim 68, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the information from the monitoring device to a plurality of monitored devices including the monitored device.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for communicating between a machine and a monitoring device, comprising the steps of:

determining status information using at least one of a mechanical and electrical sensor; and

transmitting an electronic mail message using an Internet e-mail protocol from the machine to the monitoring device containing the status information, the machine being selected from the group consisting of a printer, a ~~facsimile machine~~, a ~~facsimile server~~, a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending machine.

Claim 17 (Original): A method according to claim 69, further comprising the step of:
analyzing the status information by the machine,

wherein the status information is transmitted in the Internet electronic mail message from the machine when the status information is analyzed and determined to be within a standard operating range.

Claim 18 (Original): A method according to claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

determining status information which is outside of normal operating parameters exists in the machine using at least one of the mechanical and electrical sensor; and

transmitting a connection-mode message from the machine to the monitoring device containing the status information which is outside of the normal operating parameters.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A method according to claim 17, wherein the step of transmitting from the machine to the monitoring device comprises:

transmitting, through the Internet, the Internet electronic mail message from the machine which is a device selected from the group consisting of a copier, ~~a facsimile machine,~~ and a printer, to the monitoring device.

Claims 20-35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A system for communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device, comprising:

means for determining information to be transmitted by the monitoring device to the monitored device, the monitored device, being selected from the group consisting of a printer, ~~a facsimile machine, a facsimile server,~~ a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending

machine, the information including a request for a status of the monitored device determined using sensors within the monitored device; and

a transmitter of the monitoring device which transmits the information through electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device using an Internet e-mail protocol.

Claim 37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Original): A system according to claim 70, wherein the monitored device is a business office device.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 38, wherein the business office device is one of a copier, ~~a facsimile machine~~, and a printer.

Claim 40 (Original): A system according to claim 70, wherein the monitored device further comprises:

a receiver which receives the transmitted information; and

a transmitter which transmits, through the Internet, an Internet electronic mail message from the monitored device to the monitoring device containing status information of the monitored device, in response to the transmitted information from the monitoring device.

Claim 41 (Original): A system according to claim 70, wherein the transmitter of the monitoring device comprises:

a transmitter which transmits the information from the monitoring device to a plurality of monitored devices including the monitored device.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A system for communicating between a machine and a monitoring device, comprising:

sensors within the machine which sense status information to be transmitted to the monitoring device, the machine being selected from the group consisting of a printer, a ~~facsimile machine, a facsimile server,~~ a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending machine; and

a transmitter of the machine which transmits the status information using an electronic mail message from the machine to the monitoring device using an Internet e-mail protocol.

Claim 43 (Original): A system according to claim 71, further comprising:

means for analyzing the status information by the machine,

wherein the status information is transmitted using the transmitter of the machine when the status information is analyzed and determined to be within a standard operating range.

Claim 44 (Original): A system according to claim 43, further comprising:

means for determining status information which is outside of normal operating parameters exists in the machine using said sensors; and

a transmitter configured to transmit a connection-mode message from the machine to the monitoring device containing the status information which is outside of the normal operating parameters.

Claims 45-51 (Canceled).

Claim 52 (Original): A method according to claim 68, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message which includes an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

Claim 53 (Original): A method according to claim 52, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message which includes a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

Claim 54 (Original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting said electronic mail as an Internet electronic mail message through a firewall of a network which includes the monitored device.

Claim 55 (Original): A method according to claim 54, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting said Internet electronic mail message which includes an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

Claim 56 (Original): A method according to claim 55, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting said Internet electronic mail message which includes a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

Claim 57 (Original): A system according to claim 70, wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

Claim 58 (Original): A system according to claim 57, wherein the transmitter further comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

Claim 59 (Original): A system according to claim 70, wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message through a firewall of a network which includes the monitored device.

Claim 60 (Original): A system according to claim 59, wherein the transmitter further comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

Claim 61 (Original): A system according to claim 60, wherein the transmitter further comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

Claims 62-67 (Canceled).

Claim 68 (Original): A method according to claim 10, wherein said step of transmitting comprises:

transmitting the information through an Internet electronic mail message over the Internet from the monitoring device to the monitored device.

Claim 69 (Original): A method according to claim 16, wherein said step of transmitting comprises:

transmitting the information using an Internet electronic mail message through the Internet from the machine to the monitoring device.

Claim 70 (Original): A system according to claim 36, wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit the electronic mail message and information, using the Internet, as Internet electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device.

Claim 71 (Original): A system according to claim 42, wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit the information and electronic mail message, using the Internet, as an Internet electronic mail message from the monitoring device to the monitored device.

Claim 72 (Original): A method according to claim 68, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim 73 (Original): A method according to claim 72, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 74 (Original): A method according to claim 10, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 75 (Original): A method according to claim 68, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 76 (Original): A method according to claim 69, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim 77 (Original): A method according to claim 76, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 78 (Original): A method according to claim 16, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 79 (Original): A method according to claim 69, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 80 (Original): A system according to claim 70, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim 81 (Original): A system according to claim 80, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 82 (Original): A system according to claim 36, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 83 (Original): A system according to claim 70, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 84 (Original): A system according to claim 71, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim 85 (Original): A system according to claim 84, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 86 (Original): A system according to claim 42, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim 87 (Original): A system according to claim 71, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line

Claim 88 (New): A method according to claim 10, wherein:

the monitored device is a printer.

Claim 89 (New): A method according to claim 10, wherein:
the monitored device is a copier.

Claim 90 (New): A method according to claim 16, wherein:
the machine is a printer.

Claim 91 (New): A method according to claim 16, wherein:
the machine is a copier.

Claim 92 (New): A method according to claim 36, wherein:
the monitored device is a printer.

Claim 93 (New): A method according to claim 36, wherein:
the monitored device is a copier.

Claim 94 (New): A method according to claim 42, wherein:
the machine is a printer.

Claim 95 (New): A method according to claim 42, wherein:
the machine is a copier.